



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|                               |   |    |   |                        |                   |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO |   |    |   | Complete if Known      |                   |
|                               |   |    |   | Application Number     | 09/388,509        |
|                               |   |    |   | Filing Date            | September 2, 1999 |
|                               |   |    |   | First Named Inventor   | Yasushi Maruta    |
|                               |   |    |   | Art Unit               | 2734              |
|                               |   |    |   | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned  |
| Sheet                         | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | S1905.0086/P086   |

| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                  |   |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials*     | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                        |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY       |   |   |
| phw                    | AA                    | 5,548,813                                | 08-20-1996       | Charas et al.                                   |   |
| phw                    | AB                    | 4,748,682                                | 05-31-1998       | Fukae et al.                                    |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                  |   |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY       |   |   |
| phw                      | BA                    | JP-10-051215 (w/ English Abstract)  | 02-20-1998       | Nippon Telegr & Teleph corp.                    |   |
| phw                      | BB                    | EP-0744841  | 11-27-1996       | Sony Corporation                                |   |
| phw                      | BC                    | EP-0715478  | 06-05-1996       | Texas Instruments Inc.                          |   |

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner Initials                                 | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  |  |
| phw   | CA                    | Japanese Office Action issued April 9, 2002  |  |  |  |
| phw   | CB                    | European Search Report issued 10/24/00 in a related application (English)  |  |  |  |
| phw   | CC                    | Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1998, no. 11, 30 September 1998 and JP 10-174160 A (NTT IDO TSUSHINMO KK), 26 June 1993 *abstract*   |  |  |  |
| phw   | CD                    | Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1996, no. 06, 28 June 1996 & JP 08-032347 A (Nippon Ido Tsushin KK: others: 01), 2 February 1996, *abstract*   |  |  |  |

|                    |                       |                 |        |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Examiner Signature | <i>Demetra Willis</i> | Date Considered | 9/9/03 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.